

# **New Hampshire State Committee on Aging (SCOA)**

## **April 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Russ Armstrong, Kathryn Cauble, Candace Cole-McCrea, Richard Crocker, Rep. Susan Emerson, Larry Flint, Mark Frank, Sherri Harden, Herb Johnson, Bob Ritchie, Joan Shulze

**Excused:** Chuck Engborg, Sheila King

**Guests:** Michael Cauble, Jen Doig, BEAS; Beck Hodgman, Tracey Tarr, BEAS; Roger Vachon, Engaging NH

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by Rich Crocker. Attendees introduced themselves.

Motion to approve March 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Motion was approved.

### **State Budget - Jen Doig:**

A 19 page document was handed out to the committee for review of the state budget. First page is a summary of the non-Medicaid social services portion only of the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services budget. It consists of maintenance request, change request, agency request, Governor's request, and the House final. The summary also shows the changes among all requests. Page 2 is a summary of non-Medicaid social services, which the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services report that has to be done annually called the National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) Report. The Report is presented to the Administration for Community Living. Page 2 also shows what was contracted for in fiscal year 2015. Page 3 thru 11 is the Governor's recommended portion of the non-Medicaid social services; pages 12 thru 18 is HB 1 as it was passed by the House (for the BEAS social services portion). Page 19 is HB 2; the portion of this that is outlined will impacted non-Medicaid social services. The original BEAS request was \$463,887,884 for fiscal 2016 and \$473,164,165 for 2017. The Governor and her address on 2/12/15 reduced the budget to \$427,429,935 for 2016 and \$432,739,972 for 2017. The House budget eliminated ServiceLink and reduced of 50% non-Medicaid social services by 50%. On the House final that was on 4/1/15 brought down the total budget to \$401,333,750 for 2016 and \$400,533,045 for 2017. The Bureau will be presenting the budget to the Senate at the end of April. The Senate will be voting on their budget on May 28. Please refer to the attached documents for reference.

### **Continuation of the State Budget – Rich Crocker:**

If you look at NH Center for Public Policy Studies report related to economic development---New Hampshire is stagnating. New Hampshire used to lead New England out of recessions, now that NH is not, it is creating a problem for our state budget. The House budget is going to take \$20,000,000 from nursing home reimbursement. Does this mean it will be used for community services? If it is then, this would help to rebalance the state's spending in long term services and supports.

County nursing homes make up their reimbursement through Pro-Share which is a form of Medicaid reimbursement, and only the county nursing homes can participate in. Private nursing homes will take a hit in their revenue, which could result in private nursing homes would just reduce the number of Medicaid funded beds and have more private pay beds for revenue.

In the footnotes of the budget, it continues to control spending on the home community based care Medicaid side, which means that the average annual cost for the provision of services in home based care cannot exceed 50% of the average annual nursing home costs. No person whose cost would be in excess of 80% of nursing facility cost

would be approved for mid-level services without the prior approval of the Commission of Health and Human Services.

Another footnote has a 25% reduction in the Medicaid Quality Incentive Program (MQIP). The funds are to be deposited as restricted revenue in account of the Department of Health and Human Services and shall be used in support of long term care services not for any other purpose.

There is a 5% reduction in the 2017 budget, which assumes that the Managed Care Organizations will be able to save/reduce costs an additional 5%, which they would otherwise pay Medicaid for nursing home beds or community based services.

In another footnote, the Commissioner is authorized by notification to the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services to transfer funds within and among all accounting units within the department as the Commissioner deems necessary and appropriate to implement the Medicaid Managed Care program.

Foster grand parenting has been suspended. Congregate housing supports have been suspended both under Medicaid and Non-Medicaid. The county "CAP", is up going from to a total billing of all 12 counties is, pursuit to people receiving nursing home services and Medicaid match is going up from \$109,000,000 to \$112,000,000 in the first year and stays flat in the second.

#### **Legislation – Rich Crocker:**

HB 447 – Relative to quorums for meetings under the right to know act and doing it without physically being present and doing it electronically, inexpedient to legislate.

HB 496 – Prohibiting public employers from using criminal history in employment decision. This bill was tabled.

HB 548 – Establishing the federal facilitated health exchange, as a health exchange for New Hampshire, inexpedient to legislate.

SB 198 – Allowing all voters to vote by absentee ballot which occurs in other states, retained in the committee.

HB 151 – Establishing a committee on end of life decisions, passed the House, is now in the Senate. SCOA will continue to monitor.

HB 328 - Delivery of absentee ballots passed the House, now in the Senate. SCOA will continue to monitor.

HB 330 – Establishing an oversight commission for medical cost transparency, passed the House with an amendment and now with the Senate. SCOA will continue to monitor.

HB 411 – Payment of sub-minimum wages to person with disabilities, passed with and amendment, is now with the Senate. SCOA will support.

HB 484 – Relevant to medication administration by licensed nursing assistants in relative to exemptions from regulations for certain nursing care and attendant care services, passed by the House with an amendment, now with the Senate. SCOA will support.

HB 628 – Relative to indemnification of health care facilities under certain circumstances passed the House, now in the senate. SCOA will support.

SB 7 – Adding duties to the joint health care reform oversight committee, this provides oversight, policy direction, and recommendations for legislation regarding implementation of managed care and the New Hampshire protection plan. Senate passed, now is in the House. SCOA will continue to monitor.

SB 8 – Relative to appropriations for nursing homes. This is Senator Forrester’s response to the DHHS attempt to reduce this year’s budget. Senate has passed, now over in the House. Amended by the Senate just clarifies the appropriations of monies from nursing homes. SCOA will monitor.

SB 49 – Relative to clinical eligibility determination to long term care. This bill clarifies the professional medical personnel who may determine clinical eligibility for long term care services under Medicaid. Senate has passed, now in the House. SCOA will monitor.

SB 56 – Establishing a commission to study oversight, regulation, and reporting of patient safety and health care quality issues, passed by the Senate, now in the House. SCOA will monitor.

SB 84 – Relative to the definition of telemedicine. This bill clarifies when it is appropriate to use telemedicine in practitioner-patient medical circumstances. Under this bill the practitioner shall not prescribe certain controlled drugs by means of telemedicine. Passed by the Senate, is now in the House. SCOA will monitor.

SB 100 – Relative to home heating fuel deliveries in the winter. This was referred to the committee.

SB 146 – Establish requirements for local regulation of accessory dwellings. This bill has passed in the Senate, but with an amendment. SCOA will support.

SB 187 – Allowing a patient to designate a caregiver upon entry to a medical facility. This bill has passed in the Senate, but with an amendment. SCOA will support.

SB 209 – Adopting the Uniform Adult Guardianship Act and Protect Proceedings Jurisdiction Act. This has passed the Senate with an amendment, now with the House. SCOA will support.

#### **Municipal Master Plans – Mark Frank:**

Last month Mark met with Christopher Northrop, Principal Planner for Office of Energy and Planning. Moving forward OEP will be writing up a technical bulletin to all the municipalities in the state. OEP would like them to update their master plans for easier mobility in their plans. This will allow the towns to have better regulations. OEP should have the technical bulletin ready to send out by the end of the month for distribution.

#### **State Plan on Ageing – Tracey Tarr:**

Tracey passed to the Committee a paper on 4 outline areas that the state Plan needs to address. Tracey will be restructuring the lay out of the document with each focus area, then go into who are the key partners that are involved, list one to two goals that are reasonable to be accomplished in the next 4 years, then detail objectives to reach those goals, and finally specify what strategies will be used to attain the goals. Tracey will be setting up appointments with Herb Johnson, Joan Shulze, and Chuck Engborg to help work on the plan.

#### **Older American Act Re-Authorization/Federal Budget – Rich Crocker:**

In regards to the funding of this act, the federal budget remains flat. The re-authorization has moved to a different place in the Senate, but it has not been passed yet. The re-authorization is moving along with bi-partisan support.

### **Medicaid Managed Care – Rich Crocker:**

Rich submitted a letter to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in support of Disability Rights Center (DRC) letter of recommendation. DHHS released an RFA on April 1, 2015, accepting applications from vendors to provide fully at risk Medicaid Managed Care medical and long term care services to Medicaid clients. Deadline for the vendors is June 1, 2015.

### **Endowment for Health Initiative/Frameworks Institute – Russ Armstrong:**

Russ, Herb, and Rich attended a Collective Impact workshop in March. The workshop presented a case study involving Cheshire Medical Center's Healthy Monadnock Program. The approach is to organize community stakeholders in a common community challenge. The Collaborative approach is in part an extension of Better Together but is more formalized, starts out with framing the problem being addressed so everyone who is advocating can share a common vision. Frustration is often encountered with reaching out to policy makers. The Endowment for Health will be forming a collaborative approach for its new Senior Health Initiative. There is a Core Advisory meeting on Wednesday which will begin to define the approach. It is premature to expect grants in the initiative in the near future.

### **Oral Health – Rep. Susan Emerson:**

The commission is still new. Chairman Senator Bradley has just been having stakeholders come in and give briefings from NH Dental Society, Orthodontists Association, and the Pediatric dentists talking about the need for NH not meeting standards of dental care.

### **Vaughan Awards – Rich Crocker:**

Reminder that after the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the awards ceremony is at the Executive Council Chambers.

### **Other Cats & Dogs:**

Rich has not heard back from New Hampshire Public Radio about doing two shows in April.

Sherri sent out to the committee an informational paper on Caption Call; it is a device that types out every word of a person's conversation. This can be integrated into the telephone; and is for people who are hearing impaired or deaf. Rich will get in touch with Joan Marcoux, for a demonstration of the device at a future meeting.

On May 28 there is a regional meeting in Boston on the White House Conference on Aging.

Larry Flint's, Candace Cole-McCrea's, and Sheila King's terms end in June 2015. Rich's term as Chair ends in June as well. Rich asked the Committee if anyone would like to Chair.

### **Senior Housing - Sherri Harden:**

Tabled for next month's meeting

Next meeting is May 4, 2015 from 10:00-12:30.